



# Puerto Rican people show the way

## Mass protests oust governor in just 12 days

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Breaking news: Just minutes before midnight on July 24, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló finally announced his resignation through a recorded message posted on his Facebook page. He did so after keeping the legislature, the people and journalists in suspense for hours, after postponing a news conference scheduled for 4 p.m. — another example of his disdain for the people.

But in the streets, the people shouted: “Ricky did not resign! We ousted him!” taking ownership of the victory.

July 24: The enormous outrage felt in every pore by the Puerto Rican people erupted in massive demonstrations July 13 following the revelation of a shameful Telegram chat between Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and 11 of his closest collaborators, all men. Its content, covering only 50 days, reflects the enormous contempt of this pack of wolves towards the Puerto Rican people.

Written in the filthiest and most degrading manner, filled with sexist, homophobic and racist insults, even including threats to civil servants and elected officials, it documents a cruel and perverse elitism towards those who are not white, wealthy men.

The barbarity, mocking even those killed by Hurricane María, has no comparison. The anti-Puerto Rican sentiment of these members of the New Progressive Party — which pursues U.S. statehood — was demonstrated when one of them said that he “sees the future of Puerto Rico and it is so wonderful, without Puerto Ricans.”

The great work accomplished by journalists of the Center for Investigative Journalism of Puerto Rico, which published 889 pages of this chat, began a process of awakening popular awareness never before seen in the archipelago. It is strong proof of the importance of putting truthful information in the hands of the people.

### Context of the protests

This publication was like the famous straw that broke the camel’s back. It was a consequence of years of economic recession that undermined the country’s fiscal sustainability, and the imposition of a Fiscal Control Board (FCB) under the Promesa law passed by the U.S. Congress under the Obama administration to pay an illegitimate debt of more than \$74 billion.

The austerity measures and wave of privatizations, triggered by both the FCB (popularly known as “the junta”) and the government that imposed a labor reform law reduc-

ing workers’ rights, have suffocated the population. Add that to the terrible blow from hurricanes Irma and María, which caused huge economic losses and pushed almost a quarter of a million Puerto Ricans into involuntary exile. More than 400 closed schools, increased public university tuition, reduced medical services, increases in taxes and fees that raise the cost of living while pensions and bonuses are reduced or eliminated, and many layoffs.

All this framed a broad corruption scheme where millions of dollars in federal funds and from the peoples’ own local coffers were stolen by government officials and by private contractors who benefited from their relationships with various politicians. This includes Education Secretary Julia Keleher, a U.S. businesswoman from Philadelphia, who was paid a \$250,000 salary in a bankrupt country.

Keleher, responsible for the closure of at least 400 schools and the attempted privatization of public education, has now been arrested and faces federal charges for theft and diversion of education funds. On the same day as her arrest, five more program directors under the Rosselló administration were also arrested, including one from the important health sector.

### ‘We are more and we are not afraid’

Each Puerto Rican is like a pressure cooker, and at the same time there is a collective pressure cooker—the people in general—who have been the recipients of countless offenses. Indignation and pain were felt by the people, who had to unite to recover after the hurricanes because the government, both the federal one on which the colony is forced to depend, and the local administration, failed them terribly.

Now these same Puerto Rican peo-

ple have said ¡BASTA! — ENOUGH! — and poured into the streets: every day, in every town, especially in front of the Palace of Santa Catalina, La Fortaleza, where the governor resides in Old San Juan.

Without party flags, waving only the Puerto Rican single star banner in its original colors of red, blue and white or the mourning flag in black and white. Not even one U.S. flag, indicating the firm decision to assert Puerto Rican identity in front of a pro-statehood government and the U.S. junta. It was the people, self-summoned, in all their diversity, that abruptly broke with sexism, racism and homophobia in response to the affront presented by the so-called leaders in their Telegram chat — a great leap in collective awareness.

Suddenly they lost their fear while uniting around the demand “¡Ricky Renuncia!” (Ricky Resign!) There were thousands of people of all ages who had never participated in demonstrations before: whole families with their children in tow, older people, and a huge number of young people.

Puerto Ricans outside the archipelago joined in demonstrations, from the diaspora in the United States, to Puerto Ricans in different countries who sent photos or videos through social media, joining the demand. Artists, athletes and Puerto Rican scientists manifested themselves in one way or another. Even astronaut Joseph Acaba sent a photo from space with a sign that said #RickyRenuncia.

Never before have the people on the island flooded into the streets as consistently as they have now. The closest thing was the struggle to get the U.S. Navy off the small island of Vieques. But even then, it was two years after the struggle began before mass demonstrations were held like those that happened this week.



## INSIDE

### Pueblo boricua

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This time, it took the people only days to achieve the unity of nearly a million Puerto Ricans—almost a third of the population—in what was the largest demonstration in Puerto Rico’s history, the July 22 Paro Nacional.

### What does it mean?

A people that has been under colonial rule for more than 500 years, first by Spain and later by the United States, has also been the victim of great repression. Fear and deception have been constantly imposed by empires that have used the most diverse methods to drown the liberation struggle.

Now, however, the people have lost their fear and entered the streets. They follow the legacy of our liberation fighters, Ramón Emeterio Betances, Eugenio María de Hostos, Lola Rodríguez de Tío, Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Oscar López Rivera, our students and teachers who have fought for public education, environmental activists, militant and class-conscious trade unionists, women and diverse gender groups.

All this range of Puerto Rican revolutionaries have kept the torch of the struggle for social and economic justice burning, above all for liberation from colonialism, which is the ultimate source of government corruption.

Now the people have been able to see that they do have power, that unity in action is possible, and that it leads to victory. They have gone from indignation to dignified action. They have made a huge dialectical leap that will be impossible to stop.

The road is long and it’s just beginning. As most protesters said, “It’s not just Ricky. We want a new country.” And that country can only be new and fair when it is free and sovereign.

This new wave of activism, especially of the youth, who were not afraid to confront the criminal police who tried to quell the demonstrations with tear gas, said: “We are more and we are not afraid.”

Long live the Puerto Rican Revolution! 🇵🇷



# We are Mauna Kea!

By M. Tiahui

Kanaka Maoli — Native Hawai’ians — are engaged in a historic fight to protect their sacred Mauna Kea and stop the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project from being built there.

There are already 13 telescopes atop Mauna Kea, the highest point in all the Hawai’ian islands, and Kanaka Maoli have been opposing telescopes there since the first one was built by the U.S. Air Force in 1968.

The \$1.4 billion TMT would be 18 stories high and take up an area as big as four football fields. The project could be built elsewhere—La Palma in the Canary Islands would welcome it—but the state, the University of Hawai’i and other forces have been insistent on forcing it through at Mauna Kea despite opposition from Kanaka Maoli.

Mauna Kea is a place of ceremony and contains the bones of many ancestors. Native Hawai’ians have a sacred relationship with their land — a cultural value known as aloha ‘āina, love of the land. But for more than a century, the government of colonial Hawai’i that sits on stolen land has consistently overridden the Kanaka Maoli right to consent to or refuse development on their lands.

## Arrest of Kupuna (elders) galvanizes struggle

After years of going through hearings and courts, construction on the TMT was scheduled to begin on July 15. The Kanaka Maoli were prepared and set up a Pu’uhonua (refuge or camp) and road block at a site called Pu’u Huluhulu at the access road at the base of Mauna Kea so they could block construction equipment.

On July 17, some protectors bravely put their bodies on the line by locking down for hours onto cattle guards along the road.

That day, 38 kia’i (protectors) were arrested at the base of Mauna Kea — most of them Kupuna (elders) who volunteered to be the first arrested, even though many of them were quite frail. At the Pu’uhonua and around the world, Kanaka Maoli and other Indigenous people wept at the sight of the elders being taken away. The courageous actions of all those involved galvanized the struggle.

Among those arrested was Onaona Trask, who told Indian Country Today that one of the arresting officers was a former student she had known since birth. “It was kaumaha (with a heavy heart),” she said. “I talked to her in Hawai’ian, and told her that I love her. I said, ‘I carried you as a baby, so it’s okay for you to carry me now.’”

“That’s what colonization does to us,” she said. “It divides and pits us against each other. But being colonized doesn’t mean we aren’t Hawai’ian.



The Thirty Meter Telescope is the colonizer trying to exterminate our identity and our sense of self as Hawai’ians. But this mountain is so sacred to us we must protect it. In the Kumulipo (Hawai’ian creation story) Mauna Kea is where our akua (gods) dwell.”

Throngs of Hawai’ians gathered outside Gov. David Ige’s office. For two days, traffic was slowed on the H1 highway. On July 21, more than a thousand marched in Honolulu. On July 22, when there was a march in Honolulu to support the popular uprising in Puerto Rico, some tourism workers also stopped work for a day to support the protectors at Mauna Kea. The access road camp has grown to over 2,000 people on some days.

There have been solidarity actions throughout Hawai’i, on the U.S. mainland and worldwide. The many expressions of Polynesian solidarity and unity have been inspiring.

This outpouring of support has pushed back Gov. Ige, who had declared a state of emergency and called in the National Guard and a militarized Honolulu police department. Ige, a proponent of the TMT, publicly smeared the Pu’uhonua camp as being disorderly, drunk and disorganized, and refused to meet with the protectors for several days. He was widely criticized and as a result backed down and came to visit the camp on July 23.

## Kanaka Maoli culture leads the way

Some media, university officials, scientists and others have falsely painted the Kanaka as being anti-science. But Kanaka Maoli were observing the stars and functioning as scientists on their own lands long before the Europeans showed up.

The Mauna Kea struggle has brought to the fore the issue of the need for scientists to decolonize themselves from colonialist and racist values and beliefs. Science needs to stop disrespecting and running roughshod over the rights of Indigenous, Black and other impacted com-



munities in the name of “progress.”

While many people are noting the similarities to the #NoDAPL defense at Standing Rock in 2017-2018, it is important to emphasize that the Mauna Kea defense is in another time and place and reflects distinct Kanaka Maoli history, practices and cultural values.

The youngsters have been studying with the elders who have been in the struggle for decades, and have also clearly studied past and current struggles in other places as well, while bringing deep cultural knowledge to bear to make the essence of the resistance align with Kanaka values and beliefs.

The camp at the access road is beautifully organized, with many youth leading the way. In just a short period of time, protectors have set up free classes, cooking facilities, security, sanitation, childcare, trainings, medical care and much more. Everyone’s work is valued. Being there is the first true taste of freedom on sovereign land that many participants have ever experienced.

Many non-Native people in Hawai’i, fed up with the ongoing disrespect for Native Hawai’ians and by the way in which the government and institutions have run rampant and have been in thrall to developers, are supporting the movement.

While the defense of Mauna Kea is Kanaka-led, the support is very multinational, including Filipino, Chinese, Okinawan, Japanese, Samoan, Puerto Rican, Black, white and many other nationalities. Hawai’i has a very multinational population, in part because workers from around the world were brought to Hawai’i for decades because the plantation and other bosses hoped that national divisions would prevent them all from organizing together as workers.

In Hawai’i and around the world, from the Philippines to Mexico to British Columbia, Indigenous peoples are defending their land and insisting that nothing should be built, extracted or developed without their consent.

The heroic defenses of land and water in Hawai’i and elsewhere are in some ways a reawakening and in other ways a continuation of the Indigenous resistance that began with invasion. Understanding this resistance can also open non-Indigenous people to the possibility of honoring the land.

Capitalism, colonialism, racism, misogyny — all of these forces alienate humans from their attachment to the land and all living beings on the land. Under capitalism and colonialism, nothing is sacred; land is something to be conquered and exploited. Recovering a proper relationship with the land, water, air and life are key at a time of unchecked climate catastrophe.

Read the full article and find out how you can help at [Struggle-La-Lucha.org](http://Struggle-La-Lucha.org)

## LABOR

### AMAZON

## 18 minute break in 11.5 hour shift

A journalist and author took a job at an Amazon warehouse for an investigative story in Time magazine. She writes: “I took a job in an Amazon fulfillment center in Indiana over a few weeks. ... I wasn’t prepared for how exhausting working at Amazon would be. ...

“Technology has enabled employers to enforce a work pace with no room for inefficiency, squeezing every ounce of downtime out of workers’ days. The scan gun I used to do my job was also my own personal digital manager. Every single thing I did was monitored and timed. After I completed a task, the scan gun not only immediately gave me a new one but also started counting down the seconds I had left to do it.

“It also alerted a manager if I had too many minutes of ‘Time Off Task.’ At my warehouse, you were expected to be off task for only 18 minutes per shift—mine was 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.—which included using the bathroom, getting a drink of water or just walking slower than the algorithm dictated.”

## DELIVERY WORKERS Companies keep tips

Unknown to most, the tips given to delivery workers have been kept by the company. The New York Times reports: “DoorDash, the nation’s biggest on-demand food-delivery app, is dropping a widely criticized tipping policy that effectively meant customers’ tips were going to DoorDash rather than the worker who delivered their meal.”

DoorDash and most other delivery apps pay delivery workers a set fee. If a customer gives a tip through the app, the tip is deducted from the fee. For example, if DoorDash paid a worker \$7 for a delivery and a customer did not tip, DoorDash would directly pay the worker \$7. If

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# Community organizes self-defense against ICE raids

By John Parker  
Los Angeles

On Saturday morning, July 13, activists heeded the call of Unión del Barrio (UdB) and gathered at a community center in Los Angeles to anxiously hear plans on community self-defense strategies against raids by U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE).

The community meeting focused on the creation of “Comités de Resistencia/Community Self-Defense Committees” against ICE raids. It came on the same weekend that Donald Trump had threatened to carry out deportation raids targeting families in 10 major U.S. cities.

ICE and police terrorize Latinx residents on this side of the border, egged on by the white-supremacist Trump administration, while children continue to die in Trump’s inhuman detention centers.

Like many who are frustrated by the lack of real action by politicians to stop the racist, genocidal treatment of migrants at the border and in detention centers, UdB believes it is up to the people themselves to

change the situation.

Ron Gochez, one of the presenters at the community meeting, said: “Protests and marches are important, but they are not enough. We must organize ourselves and be ready to defend our people.”

At the meeting, organizers discussed how to create “Comités” in schools, churches, apartment buildings or anywhere necessary. The goal is to set up self-defense committees in different areas around the city of Los Angeles.

Some 70 people participated in the first meeting, and a second weekly meeting on July 20 was also well attended. The initiative by UdB has so far received a good amount of mainstream media attention. Six major media outlets attended a press conference held in South Central Los Angeles a few days prior to the meeting.

Members of Partido de Socialismo Unido/Socialist Unity Party were invited to speak at this press conference and have joined the weekly meetings, hoping to build and support this most important effort in Los Angeles.



SLL PHOTO: SCOTT SCHEFFER

Another of the attendees at the press conference was a member from the San Diego chapter of UdB, where they are using cars with decals attached to the doors identifying them as people’s patrol cars to protect community members from ICE.

A Facebook page announcing future meetings states: “We call on the community to join the resistance against Trump, the migra, the police or anyone else who is threatening our community!”

It is no accident that this organization is leading the battle here in Los Angeles. Unión del Barrio is a

community organization dedicated to the liberation of the people of Latin America against U.S. imperialism and works toward the empowerment of local Latinx communities, while also helping to build Black and Brown unity.

This type of response that empowers people to not rely on politicians or allow fear of the police and ICE to stifle activism will surely encourage similar strategies and militancy around the country, while building broader solidarity with migrants and all of those threatened by ICE and the police. [@](#)

## EDITORIAL

# Trump’s attack on The Squad is an attack on all workers

“Go back where you came from” is one of the oldest slurs directed at oppressed workers. This slogan—with its implied threat of deportation—denies and hides the very long history of U.S. bosses occupying, enslaving, colonizing, robbing and destroying the Americas and the rest of the planet.

So, it was true to form that the bigoted, demagogic U.S. president, Donald Trump, used this vile slogan against four progressive, nonwhite, women members of Congress, known collectively as The Squad: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

In a series of tweets July 14, Trump poured out his racist bile on these congresspeople, whom he claimed “originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe ... telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run.”

He said the four women should “go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came.”

Trump followed up at a July 17 campaign rally in Greenville, N.C. — which like most Trump events took on an overtly white supremacist character. There, the president egged on his supporters, who responded with chants of “Send her back!” aimed at Omar. Trump later praised the crowd as “incredible patriots.”

In fact, all but one of these duly elected members of the House of Representatives were born in the U.S. They were all elected by oppressed, working-class communities and have raised issues of concern to those communities, demands that go beyond what the U.S. ruling class and its political servants find acceptable at this time — like rights for Palestinian children, a \$20 minimum wage and an end to concentration camps at the border.

And that is why they are under attack.



‘The Squad’: Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

**Attacked by Trump — and Democrats, too**

Of course, none of this matters to Trump, his neo-fascist supporters in government and law enforcement, or their white supremacist base, many of whom speak openly not only

of deporting but also of murdering migrants, Muslim people, Black and Brown people, women, LGBTQ2S people, anti-fascists and others.

But it’s not just Trump or the Republicans who are responsible for creating this dangerous situation. Leading congressional Democrats like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, with the backing of the Democratic National Committee, paved the way for Trump with their own racist attacks on The Squad.

Listen to Pelosi’s words directed at them just days before Trump’s rant, quoted in the New York Times: “All these people have their public whatever and their Twitter world. But they didn’t have any following. They’re four people and that’s how many votes they got.”

“These people.” Sound familiar?

After earlier backing Trump’s racist “border security” bill, on July 12 Pelosi’s House Democratic majority joined Republicans in voting down a measure introduced by Ocasio-Cortez to put limits on repressive measures at the border.

That’s because, for all their bluster about being “The Resistance,” the Democratic leadership has no fundamental differences with Trump when it comes to terrorizing migrants and refugees, waging imperialist wars or exploiting workers everywhere.

**The issue is racism**

Together, Trump and his Democratic collaborators have put a target on the back of each of these women — and through them, on the

backs of all oppressed people.

Racism is the issue. Misogyny, Islamophobia and anti-migrant bigotry are the issues. Trump’s appeal to his fascist base with code words and slogans that ramp them up for acts of terror against oppressed workers, women and migrants is the issue.

Many of the Democrats who are making hay out of Trump’s overt racist appeals today baited the hook for him yesterday, and continue to attack The Squad even now. They want to divert the growing fightback against deportations and concentration camps into passive support for their 2020 election campaigns. They cannot be trusted to defend these congresspeople, even though they belong to the same party.

Every worker, including every white worker, has a stake in this struggle. Trump, the Republicans and the Democrats are all engaged in the oldest and deadliest form of ideological war on the working class: divide and conquer.

Trump’s racist, anti-migrant rhetoric aims to convince white workers that they have more in common with the bosses who exploit them than with their fellow workers who are Black, Latinx, Asian, Arab or Indigenous, or who happen to have been born somewhere else.

To counter this poison, we have to build unity and solidarity in action.

Like the anti-war, immigrants’ rights, labor and community activists who turned out by the hundreds at the Minneapolis airport to greet Omar with chants of “Welcome home! Welcome home!”

Like the neighbors in Hermitage, Tenn. — Black, white, Latinx, Indigenous—who formed a human chain to prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from arresting a targeted man and child.

Like Union del Barrio, which is patrolling the streets of San Diego to warn the community of ICE raids and working with allies to build Resistance Committees in Los Angeles.

Only we—the workers and oppressed—can be relied upon to defend The Squad and ourselves. [@](#)



# Puertorriqueñxs muestran el camino

## Protestas masivas expulsan al gobernador en solo 12 días

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

*¡ÚLTIMA HORA! La noche del 24 de julio, apenas a minutos de la medianoche, el gobernador de Puerto Rico Ricardo Rosselló finalmente emitió el anuncio de su renuncia por medio de un mensaje grabado en su página de Facebook. Lo hizo después de mantener a la Legislatura, al pueblo y a periodistas en vilo por horas, convocados para una rueda de prensa a las 4 p.m., siendo otra muestra más de su desdén hacia el pueblo.*

*En las calles, el pueblo gritaba: ¡Ricky no renunció! Lo botamos! adueñándose así de la victoria.*

La enorme indignación sentida en cada poro del pueblo boricua brotó en masivas manifestaciones el 13 de julio tras la revelación del contenido de un vergonzoso chat de la aplicación Telegram entre el gobernador Ricardo Rosselló y 11 de sus más cercanos colaboradores, todos hombres. Su contenido que cubre solo 50 días, refleja el enorme desprecio de esta “manada” hacia el pueblo boricua. Escritos de la forma más sucia y denigrante con insultos sexistas, homofóbicos y racistas, incluyendo hasta amenazas hacia funcionarias y funcionarios electos, denotan un elitismo cruel y perverso hacia quienes no sean hombres blancos y ricos. La barbarie de burlarse hasta de los muertos por el Huracán María no tiene comparación. Hasta el sentimiento anti puertorriqueño de estos miembros del Partido Nuevo Progresista—que persigue la estabilidad—se demuestra cuando uno de ellos dice que “ve el futuro de Puerto Rico y es maravilloso, sin puertorriqueños.”

La gran labor de periodistas del Centro de Periodismo Investigativo de Puerto Rico logró la publicación de 889 páginas de este chat, poniendo en marcha un proceso de concien-



SLL PHOTO

tización popular nunca visto en el archipiélago. Es prueba fehaciente de la importancia que tiene la información correcta en manos del pueblo.

### Contexto

Esta publicación fue como la consabida gota que colmó la copa. La consecuencia de años de recesión económica que mermaron la frágil sostenibilidad fiscal del país, hasta la imposición de una Junta de Control Fiscal bajo la ley Promesa aprobada por el Congreso estadounidense bajo la administración de Obama para pagar una deuda ilegítima de más de \$74 mil millones.

Las medidas de austeridad y la ola de privatizaciones desencadenadas tanto por la Junta como por el mismo gobierno que impuso una Reforma Laboral mermando los derechos laborales, han sofocado a la población. Súmese el terrible golpe de los huracanes Irma y María que produjeron una enorme pérdida económica y empujó a casi un cuarto de millón de boricuas a un exilio involuntario. Más de 400 escuelas cerradas, aumento del costo de la matrícula en la Universidad pública, servicios médicos reducidos, aumentos en impuestos y servicios que elevan el costo de vida a la vez que se reducen pensiones, bonos y se efectúan despidos.

Todo esto enmarcado en un amplio esquema de corrupción donde millones de dólares en fondos federales y de las propias arcas del pueblo fueron robados por oficiales del gobierno y contratistas beneficiados por sus relaciones con diferentes políticos. Esto incluye hasta la Secretaría de Educación, Julia Keleher, una norteamericana a la cual se le pagaba \$250,000 en un país en bancarrota. Ella, responsable del cierre de por lo menos 400 escuelas, y del intento de privatización de las escuelas públicas, ahora fue arrestada y se encuentra enfrentando un proceso federal por robo y desvío de

fondos en educación. El mismo día de su arresto fueron también procesadas cinco personas más dirigentes de programas bajo la administración de Rosselló, incluyendo el tan importante de salud.

‘Somos más y no tenemos miedo’ Cada boricua es como una olla de presión y a la vez hay una olla colectiva que como pueblo, ha recibido innumerables ofensas. La indignación y el dolor sentido por ese pueblo que tuvo que unirse para recuperarse solo porque el estado, tanto el federal del cual como colonia depende, y el local que administra, le falló terriblemente.

Ahora ese pueblo dijo ¡BASTA! y se volcó en las calles. Cada día, en cada pueblo, y sobre todo frente al Palacio de Santa Catalina, la Fortaleza, donde reside el gobernador en el Viejo San Juan.

Sin banderas de partidos, ondeando solo la monoestrellada en sus colores originales de rojo, azul y blanco o la de luto en blanco y negro. Ni una bandera estadounidense, indicando la firme decisión de afianzar la identidad boricua frente a un gobierno pro estadista y una Junta estadounidense. Es el pueblo autoconvocado, con toda su diversidad que abruptamente rompió con el sexismo, el racismo y la homofobia como respuesta a la afrenta presentada por los mal llamados líderes en el chat de Telegram. Un salto en la concientización colectiva. De pronto se perdió el miedo uniéndose bajo el reclamo de “¡Ricky renuncia!” Miles de personas de todas las edades que nunca habían participado en manifestaciones. Familias enteras con sus hijas e hijos a cuestas, personas muy mayores, y una enorme cantidad de jóvenes.

Boricuas fuera del archipiélago se unieron en manifestaciones, desde la Diáspora en los Estados Unidos, hasta boricuas en los diferentes países que enviaban fotos o videos por los medios sociales, uniéndose al reclamo. Artistas, deportistas, científicos boricuas se manifestaron de una forma u otra. Hasta el astro-

nauta Joseph Acaba envió una foto desde el espacio con un cartel que decía Ricky Renuncia.

En las casi dos semanas de manifestaciones ininterrumpidas se ha constatado la creatividad boricua. Los carteles escritos a mano con mensajes reflejando el sentimiento particular y las formas de protesta, desde bailes, cacerolazos, acrobacias, teatro de calle, carreras de motocicletas, de bicicletas y hasta de lanchas.

Realmente, nunca antes el pueblo se había tirado a la calle tan consistentemente como ahora. Lo más cercano fue la lucha para sacar la Marina estadounidense de la isleta de Vieques. Pero incluso ahí, no fue hasta dos años de comenzada la lucha que se lograron manifestaciones multitudinarias como la alcanzada estos días. Ahora, ese pueblo tardó solo una semana para lograr la unión de cerca de un millón de boricuas—casi un tercio de la población—en lo que fue la manifestación más grande de la historia.

### ¿Cuál es el significado?

Un pueblo que ha sido colonia durante más de 500 años, primero de España y luego de Estados Unidos, ha sido también víctima de una gran represión. El miedo y el engaño han sido una constante impuesta por los imperios que han utilizado los más diversos métodos para ahogar la lucha libertaria.

Sin embargo, ahora ese pueblo perdió el miedo y se volcó en las calles. Han seguido el legado de figuras de nuestra liberación, desde Ramón Emeterio Betances, Eugenio María de Hostos, Lola Rodríguez de Tío, Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, Oscar López, nuestros estudiantes y maestrxs que han luchado por una educación pública, lxs integrantes de la lucha ambiental, sindicatos militantes y clasistas, las mujeres y los grupos género diversos. Toda esa gama de revolucionarixs boricuas que han mantenido la antorcha de la lucha por la justicia social y económica, y sobre todo por la liberación de la colonia, que es la fuente de las corrupciones gubernamentales.

Ahora ese pueblo ha podido constatar que sí tiene poder, que unidad en acción es posible y lleva a la victoria. Han pasado de la indignación a la digna acción. Han dado un enorme salto dialéctico que será imposible de detener.

El camino es largo y solo está comenzando. Como decía la mayoría de manifestantes, “no es solo Ricky, queremos un país nuevo.” Y ese país solo puede ser nuevo y justo cuando sea libre y soberano. Esa nueva ola de activismo, sobre todo de la juventud, que no ha tenido miedo a enfrentar a esa policía criminal que con gases lacrimógenos intentó sofocar las manifestaciones, ha dicho: “Somos más y no tenemos miedo.”

¡Viva la Revolución Boricua! 🇵🇷

## LABOR

### DELIVERY WORKERS Companies keep tips

Continued from page 2

the customer tipped \$3 via the app, DoorDash would directly pay the worker only \$4, then add on the \$3 tip so that the worker would still get only \$7.

### COAL MINERS Congress cuts black lung fund

A group of retired Kentucky coal miners suffering from incurable black lung disease went to Washington on July 23 to demand action to finance the federal Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, which serves as a lifeline for an estimated 12,000 former coal miners nationwide.

The Black Lung Disability Trust Fund supports disabled miners whose employers go bankrupt and can no longer pay out medical benefits. Miners and advocates are worried that the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund could soon become insolvent due to congressional cuts in funding. 🇺🇸

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